

Memo from

To: RG Edwards

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

DJ Sharpe

JUN 7 1971

Your paper in Nature 5/14/71

Your reference (18) was quite puzzling; perhaps merely a typographical scramble. I would be interested to know just what you had on mind.

I also enclose some of my authentic writings on "cloning"; and I would be pleased to exchange reprints and further notes with you.

Your statement is much more clear-sighted than a great deal of recent discussion. I guess I still mistrust formal bodies (absent a traditional constitution) about confining themselves to their assigned mission -- and especially when there are no large scale pragmatic problems at hand. (Speculation may lead to mischief.)

The disposition of organs post-mortem would seem to me to qualify, more assuredly, by this criterion than isolated experiments on human reproduction (which, I believe, have no chance at all to become runaways as Watson pictures.) We have no grievous evidence, after all, that a technique like prenatal sexing and selective abortion by sex, which ought to be as troubleless as anything else on the agenda, is giving any trouble worth legislative attention; and if it should, there is ample time to invoke the necessary remedies.

I know you will say that the public perception is the crucial problem. But perhaps this is itself responsive to the confusion thrust at the public by scientists, even those who quite moderately call for commissions. And, contra

your expectations, these ~~even~~ may generate a will to survive independent of the social need.

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